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Coding Key for Database
"Strikes in Argentina, 1984-1993"

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Introduction

All data in the fourteen-column database entitled "Strikes in Argentina, 1984-1993" were transcribed, extracted, or interpolated from data collected in Buenos Aires by the Consejo Técnico de Inversiones, which published its strike records weekly in a newsletter called Tendencias Económicas and annually in a report called La Economía Argentina. Data on cause and small versus big scope (see below for definitions), which are available only for the January 1984 to May 1989 period, were collected from Informes Laborales, published monthly by the Buenos Aires labor studies center Documentación e Información Laboral (DIL) until the center closed in mid-1989. The database was constructed using Microsoft Excel for the Macintosh (originally in version 2.2, now translated into version 4.0), and may be accessed through this program or any higher-numbered version of Microsoft Excel for the Macintosh.

This coding key describes, for each of the fourteen columns, (1) what sort of information is contained in the column, (2) what source the information came from, and (3) special coding procedures used to fill in the information in each column. More information about the database may be found in the following publications by James W. McGuire:

"Strikes in Argentina: Data Sources and Recent Trends." Latin American Research Review 31 No. 3 (1996), pp. 127-150.

"The Causes of Strikes in Argentina, 1984-1991." Working Paper No. 49, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, Berkeley, October 1992.

Coding Key

What Counts as a Strike: Only strikes, lockouts, and stoppages. Strikes by police, prison guards, and doctors are included.

Date. The month in which the strike took place. 84.01 means January 1984, 84.02 means February 1984, etc. The figure in "Date" represents the month under which the strike was recorded in the successive annual issues of Consejo Técnico de Inversiones, La Economía Argentina.

Indus. The industry or service in which the strike took place. The 81 industries to which each of the four-letter codes (eg. ALIM for Alimentación -- food packaging) correspond are listed below under Coding Key 1: Industry. McGuire assigned each strike to a given industry on the basis of the information given in La Economía Argentina and (for the January 1984 to May 1989 period) Informes Laborales, filtered through his general knowledge of the structure of the Argentine economy and labor movement. In 33 cases where this knowledge failed him, the industry was coded DESC for Desconocido -- unknown.

Pub/Pr. The sector in which the strike took place: public (PUBL), private (PRIV), mixed public-private (MIXD), or unknown (DESC). McGuire decided which industries or services belonged the public, private, or mixed sector (see Coding Key 1: Industry, below). The 33 strikes falling under the industry code DESC were left as DESC, but were probably all in the private sector.

Sector. A more detailed breakdown of the sector in which the strike took place. See Coding Key 2: Sector, below.

Size. Each strike was coded either "Small" or "Big." One reason the database was constructed was to test quantitatively the hypothesis that strike decisions are motivated differently at the level of the national union leadership (where political considerations and factional infighting were hypothesized to be important motivations for strikes) than at the level of plant-level leaders (where bread-and-butter-issues like wages and job security were hypothesized to be the key motivations for strikes). For the purposes of testing this hypothesis, what was of interest was the conditions under which union leaders decide to call a strike, not how many workers the union leaders bring with them after making that decision. From this standpoint, "scope" (plant, enterprise, municipality, province, industry) is a more valid measure of bigness than was "partic" or "strkr," which measure the number of workers involved in the strike. With a few exceptions (see Coding Key), strikes called by national union leaders, whether of the metalworkers' union (267,000 members) or dock workers' union (5,000 members), were coded "big," and all other strikes were coded "small." The raw information on the basis of which "size" was recorded comes from the "scope" column. Two classes of PROV strikes were coded big: those bigger than 7,000 by Tucuman sugar workers, and those by the Rio Negro fruit packers (these industries are heavily concentrated in a single province and the provincial union is affiliated to no higher sectoral union). For more information on which sort of strikes got coded "small" and which sort got coded "big," see Coding Key 3: Strike Size, below.

Scope. Strikes were coded according to whether they took place at the level of plant, multi-plant enterprise, municipality, province, industry, etc. The database called "Data/Coding Key Scope" describes in detail the twelve possible values for this variable. The author decided which scope was appropriate for each strike on the basis of the information given in La Economía Argentina and Informes Laborales, filtered through his general knowledge of the structure of the Argentine economy and labor movement. In cases of ambiguity between city and province (e.g. "Sanidad Tucumán"), the strike was coded as PROV, except for strikes by municipal workers, which were coded MUNI. See Coding Key 4: Strike Scope, below.

Prov. What province the strike took place in. The four-letter code corresponds to the first four letters of the name of the province in which the strike took place, or the first two letters of each word for provinces like Santa Cruz (SACR) whose names are made up of two words. CAPI means capital, GRAN means Greater Buenos Aires, NACI means throughout the country, CONF means the strike was launched by a confederation of unions in various provinces. The author decided which province was appropriate for each strike on the basis of the information given in La Economía Argentina and Informes Laborales, filtered through his general knowledge of Argentine geography and the structure of the Argentine economy and labor movement. Where this knowledge failed him, this category was left blank. If La Economía Argentina said "Buenos Aires," the strike was coded BUEN, except when other evidence indicated that "Buenos Aires" should be coded as CAPI or GRAN. See Coding Key 5: Strike Province, below

Cause1. The main stated cause of the strike as described in Informes Laborales (La Economía Argentina gave no information on cause). There were twenty-five categories of cause (see Coding Key 6: Stated Cause, below). For about 1000 strikes the cause could not be determined for one of two reasons: either the strike was listed in La Economía Argentina but not in Informes Laborales (in which case the strike was coded "SINF"), or the strike was listed in both publications, but Informes Laborales provided no information or insufficient information about the cause. The most frequently cited cause was an explicit bid for a pay hike (see Coding Key 6: Stated Cause, Summary Data, below). The next most frequent involved the payment of overdue wages. The overdue wage demand was especially prominent among hard-hit categories of workers: sugar mill workers, meatpackers, teachers, and civil servants in the poorer provinces of the northwest and Patagonia. Strikes against layoffs and plant closings, the third-most important category, were also more common in the hardest-hit economic sectors, where strikes tended to be of unusually long duration (see Coding Key 1: Industry, below). The fourth-most important stated strike cause was the demand for wage parity or proportionality with better-remunerated employees. This demand was simply a disguised demand for a pay hike, and was especially common among public employees where wage scales were well-publicized (employees of the national lottery were scandalously well-paid). The court clerks alone, who demanded wage proportionality with judges, accounted for more than half of all strikes called to achieve wage parity or proportionality.

Dfns. Offensive strikes (OF) were regarded as those in which workers go on strike demanding something they don't already have, like higher wages, better benefits, or improved working conditions (with the specific exception of safety issues). Defensive ones (DEF) were viewed as those in which workers are struggling to keep something they already have (their jobs, their limbs, their freedom to organize) or should have (in the specific instance of overdue wages). Strikes were coded "offensive" (OF) or "defensive" on the basis of "Cause1." For a description of which cause got which coding, see Coding Key 6: Stated Cause, Summary Data, below.

Partic. The number of strikers who participated in the strike, according to La Economía Argentina. Where no such number was provided, the column was left blank, and the number of strikers was estimated and placed in the "EstPar" column (see EstPar, below, for the estimation method). Strikes by municipal provincial CGTs were excluded (no data on number of participants).

Dur. The duration of the strike in days, as provided by La Economía Argentina, which furnished this information for every strike. Working day assumed to be 8 hours; thus a one-hour stoppage is coded as having lasted 0.125 days. However, stoppages recorded as 12 hrs are counted as having lasted 0.5 days, as the "day" in such industry is presumed to consist of 24 hours. Similarly, 24-hour stoppages are coded as 1 day, 36 hours counted as 1.5 days, 48 hours as 2 days, etc. BUT where number of hours is not divisible by 12, duration is nearest 24 hour day plus fraction of incomplete day in remainder. Hence 26 hours was coded as 1.25 days, 30 hours as 1.75 days, 56 hours as 3.0 days, etc.

Site. The plant or enterprise in which the strike took place, the sector of labor involved in a strike above the plant or enterprise, etc., as transcribed directly from La Economía Argentina.

EstPar. For some strikes La Economía Argentina provided no information on number of strikers ("partic"). In the interest of minimizing information loss, systematic rules were devised to estimate the number of strikers in the 1,007 strikes for which La Economía Argentina did not report such a figure. The estimation method involved searching the database for "most similar strikes." First, a search was made for a strike at the same site (but at a different time) in which the number of participants had been recorded. If such a strike was discovered, its number of participants (or the average of such numbers if more than one was found) became the estimated number of participants for the strike in question. If not, the number of strikers was estimated by averaging the numbers in a set of "most similar strikes" for which such information was available. For example, La Economía Argentina did not indicate the number of workers participating in November 1986, March 1987, and August 1988 strikes by court clerks in the province of Santa Fe, but did report that 1,500 workers participated in an April 1986 strike by court clerks in the province of Mendoza. Because Santa Fe, according to the 1980 census, had just under twice the population of Mendoza, each of the court clerks' strikes in that province was assigned a proportional number of participants (2,900). These estimates were recorded in the column called "EstPar." Data from the "Partic" and "EstPar" columns were combined to compute the aggregate figures for number of strikers and number of working days lost to strikes. The faint of heart are welcome to stick with the data in the "Partic" column. Strikes by provincial CGTs excluded (no data on number of participants).

Strkrs. The figure in this column represents the number of strikers regardless of whether that number was recorded by La Economía Argentina (in which case the number in "Strkrs" equals the number in "Partic") or estimated by the author (in which case the number in "strkrs" equals the number in "EstPar"). Strikes by provincial CGTs excluded (no data on number of participants).

DayLos. Number of working days lost in the strike. Computed for each strike by multiplying the figure in the "Dur" cell by the figure in the "Strkrs" cell. Strikes by provincial CGTs were excluded (no data on number of participants).

Limitations of the Data

Although this data set on strikes in Argentina from January 1984 to December 1993 is probably one of the most complete and systematic ever compiled, it is not without some problems. The number of strikes is probably undercounted, but offsetting this undercount for certain purposes, the number of participants in strikes seems occasionally to be exaggerated. The duration of strikes is probably recorded fairly accurately, although strikes that begin in one month and end in the next (perhaps 20 to 50 of the 3,401) enter the database not as one long strike but as two shorter ones. There is no evidence, however, that such undercounts, exaggerations, or confluences were any worse in some months than in others, so these sources of error should not bias the results of time-series analyses within the 1984-1993 period. For more on the limitations of the data, see James W. McGuire, "Strikes in Argentina: Data Sources and Recent Trends," Latin American Research Review 31 No. 3 (1996), pp. 127-150.

Coding Key 1: Industry

Note: Data pertain only to January 1984-May 1989.

Abbr.	Pub/Pr	Sector	Strikes	Strikers	Av. Dur.	% Dfnsv	Industry	Industry (E)
ACTO	Private	SEPR	1	6,000	1.00	No Small	Actores	Actors
ADUA	Public	SEPU	3	11,500	5.00	No Small	Aduanas	Customs Agent
AERO	Mixed	TRMX	33	42,861	1.80	12.9	Aeronauticos	Airlines
AGEN	Private	MANU	5	611	2.40	60.0	Agentes Prop. Medica	Medical Sales
AGUA	Private	MANU	3	450	3.33	0.0	Aguas Gaseosas	Carbonated Be
AGUE	Public	SEPU	9	9,700	1.42	0.0	Agua y Energía	Water and Enei
ALIM	Private	MANU	23	752,315	7.10	22.2	Alimentación	Food Packaging
AUTO	Private	SEPR	6	14,310	1.83	40.0	Automovil Club	Auto Club Emp.
AZUC	Private	MANU	43	146,780	6.42	34.2	Azucareros	Sugar Workers
BANC	Mixed	FINA	110	3,725,270	1.73	22.1	Bancarios	Bank Clerks
BURS	Private	FINA	2	395	3.05	0.0	Bursatiles	Stock Exch. Err
CALZ	Private	MANU	8	108,750	3.91	20.0	Calzado	Footwear
CAMI	Private	SEPR	17	68,180	4.31	18.8	Camioneros	Truckers
CARN	Private	MANU	49	150,379	10.85	55.3	Carne	Meatpackers
CERA	Private	MANU	8	2,745	9.88	50.0	Ceramistas	Ceramics
CERV	Private	MANU	4	27,000	1.19	50.0	Cerveceros	Beer Workers
CINE	Private	SEPR	7	2,240	1.11	0.0	Cinematograficos	Film Industry
COME	Private	SEPR	4	122,600	1.25	0.0	Comercio	Retail Clerks
CONS	Private	CONS	85	1,556,343	6.49	39.7	Construcción	Construction
CORR	Public	SEPU	26	592,800	2.55	11.1	Correos y Telecom.	Post Office
CUER	Private	MANU	8	3,007	9.38	25.0	Cueros	Leather Worke
DESC			33	23,825	3.41	0.0	Desconocido	Sector Unknow
DOCE	Mixed	SEPU	220	8,314,600	5.67	10.2	Docentes	Teachers
ESTA	Public	ADMI	356	7,119,850	3.50	11.9	Estatales	Public Admin.
ESTI	Public	INPU	62	292,440	3.52	11.3	Estatales	Public Industry
ESTS	Public	SEPU	35	431,590	3.10	18.2	Estatales	Public Services
FARM	Private	MANU	3	29,000	1.00	0.0	Farmacia	Pharmaceutica
FERR	Public	TRPU	96	2,137,775	1.67	21.6	Ferrovianos	Railway Worke
FORE	Private	EXTR	1	3,600	1.00	0.0	Forestales	Loggers
FOSF	Private	MANU	1	120	1.00	0.0	Fosforos	Match Workers
FRUT	Private	MANU	5	38,000	4.90	0.0	Fruticolas	Fruit Packers
FUTB	Private	SEPR	1	500	5.00	0.0	Futbolistas	Prof. Soccer
GARA	Private	SEPR	5	63,400	1.00	33.3	Garajistas	Parking Lots
GASD	Public	SEPU	9	72,600	2.93	0.0	Gas del Estado	Gas Works
GAST	Private	SEPR	4	172,000	1.25	0.0	Gastronomicos	Hotel/Restaura
GRAF	Private	MANU	16	79,460	3.67	30.0	Graficos	Typesetters
GRAN	Private	MANU	1	1,600	0.75	No Small	Recib. de Granos	Grain Silos
GUAR	Private	SEPR	3	900	3.33	33.3	Guardavidas	Lifeguards
JABO	Private	MANU	2	1,600	1.75	50.0	Jaboneros	Soap/Detergen
JERA	Public	ESTA	9	18,600	1.93	0.0	Jerarquicos	Pub. Sect. Sup
JUDI	Public	ADMI	80	1,132,000	2.10	5.6	Judiciales	Court Clerks
LADR	Private	CONS	1	2,300	2.00	0.0	Ladrilleros	Bricklayers
LOCU	Mixed	SEMEX	1	250	1.00	0.0	Locutores	Newscasters
LUZY	Public	SEPU	16	378,220	2.09	0.0	Luz y Fuerza	Light and Powe
MADE	Private	MANU	2	33,400	0.94	0.0	Madereros	Carpenters
MAIZ	Private	MANU	1	2,000	2.50	0.0	Maiz (Refinerias)	Cornflour

Coding Key 1 Continues on Next Page

Coding Key 1: Industry (Continued)

Note: Data pertain only to January 1984-May 1989.

Abbr.	Pub/Pr	Sector	Strikes	Strikers	Av. Dur.	% Dfnsv	Industry	Industry (E)
MARI	Mixed	TRMX	56	354,096	5.06	9.8	Maritimos	Sailors
MECA	Private	MANU	22	312,740	2.60	43.8	Mecánicos	Auto Workers
MEDI	Mixed	SEPR	50	108,300	2.53	8.0	Médicos	Doctors
META	Private	MANU	158	2,892,714	7.02	51.0	Metalúrgicos	Metal Workers
MINE	Mixed	EXTR	18	104,280	6.32	60.0	Mineros	Miners
MUNI	Public	ADMI	143	1,413,890	3.97	14.2	Municipales	Municipal Empl
MUSI	Private	SEPR	1	800	0.63	No	Small Musicos	Musicians
NAVA	Mixed	MANU	6	4,100	4.08	33.3	Navales	Shipyards Work
NEUM	Private	MANU	1	1,000	0.13	0.0	Neumaticos	Tire Workers
NODO	Mixed	SEPU	40	864,010	3.33	4.5	No Docentes	School Staff
OBRA	Public	SEPU	21	146,000	1.73	23.5	Obras Sanitarias	Water Works
PANA	Private	MANU	4	53,500	2.75	0.0	Panaderos	Bakers
PAPE	Private	MANU	40	202,126	4.07	19.4	Papeleros	Paper Workers
PESC	Private	EXTR	8	7,940	7.25	85.7	Pescadores	Fishing Fleet
PETP	Private	MANU	9	87,940	3.90	50.0	Petrol. Privados	Petroleum (Pr
PETR	Public	MANU	24	215,720	2.00	12.5	Petrol. del Estado	Petroleum (Sta
PLAS	Private	MANU	9	51,760	6.83	57.1	Plásticos	Plastics Worke
POLI	Public	SEPU	40	53,600	2.99	0.0	Policía	Police
PORT	Private	SEMX	41	160,800	2.54	28.6	Portuarios	Dock Workers
PREN	Private	SEPR	16	18,460	4.55	43.8	Prensa	Journalists
QUIM	Private	MANU	16	77,385	3.53	18.2	Químicos	Chemical Work
RADI	Mixed	COMX	21	25,160	1.61	9.5	Radiodifusión	Radio Employee
SANI	Private	SEPR	106	2,104,880	3.65	15.2	Sanidad	Priv. Hospitals
SEGU	Private	FINA	6	185,000	0.81	0.0	Seguros	Insurance
TABA	Private	MANU	2	16,000	1.00	0.0	Tabaco	Tobacco
TANI	Private	EXTR	1	250	20.00	0.0	Tanino	Tannin
TAXI	Private	TRPR	8	42,100	1.06	0.0	Taxistas	Taxi Drivers
TELF	Public	COMM	27	892,300	1.70	14.3	Telefónicos	Telephones
TELG	Public	COMM	5	46,000	0.93	No	Small Telegrafos	Telegraphs
TELV	Mixed	COMM	7	4,450	1.98	28.6	Televisión	Television
TEXT	Private	MANU	28	525,042	5.37	43.5	Textiles	Textiles
TRAN	Private	TRPR	100	538,698	2.90	16.7	Transporte	Bus Drivers
TURF	Private	SEPR	3	2,800	2.83	0.0	Turf	Jockeys
VEST	Private	MANU	1	600	8.00	0.0	Vestido	Garment Work
VIAL	Public	SEPU	14	105,900	3.20	0.0	Vialidad	Road Workers
VIDR	Private	MANU	14	30,200	4.02	50.0	Vidrio	Glass Workers
VITI	Private	MANU	13	125,354	8.00	75.0	Vitivinícolas	Winery Worker
Totals			2,496	39,469,761	3.52			

Coding Key 2: Sector

Note: Data pertain only to January 1984-May 1989.

Industria	Strikes	English Equivalent	Abbr	Group
Estatales (Administración Pública)	327	Public Administration	ESTA	ADMI
Municipales	143	Municipal Employees	MUNI	ADMI
Judiciales	79	Court Clerks	JUDI	ADMI
Administración Pública: Total	574			
Metalúrgicos	158	Metal Workers	META	MANU
Carne	48	Meatpackers	CARN	MANU
Azucareros	43	Sugar Workers	AZUC	MANU
Papeleros	40	Paper Workers	PAPE	MANU
Textiles	27	Textile Workers or Employees	TEXT	MANU
Alimentación	23	Food Packaging Workers	ALIM	MANU
Mecánicos	23	Auto Workers	MECA	MANU
Graficos	16	Typesetters	GRAF	MANU
Vidrio	14	Glass Workers or Employees	VIDR	MANU
Vitivinícolas	13	Winery Workers	VITI	MANU
Petroleros Privados	11	Private Oil Workers	PETP	MANU
Químicos	10	Chemical Workers	QUIM	MANU
Plásticos	9	Plastics Workers	PLAS	MANU
Calzado	8	Footwear Workers	CALZ	MANU
Ceramistas	8	Ceramics Workers	CERA	MANU
Cueros	8	Leather Workers	CUER	MANU
Frutícolas	6	Fruit Packers	FRUT	MANU
Agentes de Propaganda Medica	5	Medical Equipment Sales	AGEN	MANU
Aguas Gaseosas	4	Carbonated Beverage Bottlers	AGUA	MANU
Cerveceros	4	Beer Workers	CERV	MANU
Farmacia	3	Pharmaceutical Workers	FARM	MANU
Panaderos	3	Bakers	PANA	MANU
Jaboneros	2	Soap and Detergent Workers	JABO	MANU
Madereros	2	Carpenters	MADE	MANU
Tabaco	2	Tobacco Workers or Employees	TABA	MANU
Fosforos	1	Match Workers	FOSF	MANU
Neumáticos	1	Tire Workers	NEUM	MANU
Recibidores de Granos	1	Grain Silo Workers	GRAN	MANU
Vestido	1	Garment Workers	VEST	MANU
Ind. Manufactureras: Total	494			
Docentes	221	Teachers	DOCE	SEPU
Policía	40	Police	POLI	SEPU
No Docentes	39	School Staff Personnel	NODO	SEPU
Estatales (Servicios Públicos)	35	Public Services	ESTS	SEPU
Obras Sanitarias	21	Water Works	OBRA	SEPU
Luz y Fuerza	16	Light and Power Workers	LUZY	SEPU
Vialidad	14	Road Workers	VIAL	SEPU
Gas del Estado	9	Gas Works	GASD	SEPU
Agua y Energía	8	Water and Energy	AGUE	SEPU
Aduanas	3	Customs Agents	ADUA	SEPU
Servicios Públicos: Total	406			

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Coding Key 2: Sector (continued)

Note: Data pertain only to January 1984-May 1989.

Industria	Strikes	English Equivalent	Abbr Group	
Sanidad	103	Private Hospital Workers	SANI	SEPR
Médicos	50	Doctors	MEDI	SEPR
Camioneros	16	Truckers	CAMI	SEPR
Prensa	16	Journalists	PREN	SEPR
Cinematograficos	7	Projectionists, Film Labs	CINE	SEPR
Automovil Club	5	Automobile Club Employees	AUTO	SEPR
Garajistas	5	Parking Lot Attendants	GARA	SEPR
Comercio	4	Retail Clerks	COME	SEPR
Gastronomicos	4	Hotel and Restaurant Workers	GAST	SEPR
Guardavidas	3	Lifeguards	GUAR	SEPR
Turf	3	Jockeys	TURF	SEPR
Actores	1	Actors	ACTO	SEPR
Futbolistas	1	Professional Soccer Players	FUTB	SEPR
Musicos	1	Musicians	MUSI	SEPR
Pasteleros	1	Confectioners	PAST	SEPR
Servicios Privados: Total	220			
Bancarios	110	Bank Clerks	BANC	FINA
Seguros	6	Insurance Workers	SEGU	FINA
Bursatiles	2	Stock Exchange Workers	BURS	FINA
Servicios Financieros: Total	118			
Transporte	101	Bus Drivers	TRAN	TRPR
Taxistas	8	Taxi Drivers	TAXI	TRPR
Transporte Privado: Total	109			
Ferrovianos	94	Railway Workers	FERR	TRPU
Transporte Públicas: Total	94			
Estatales (Industrias Publicas)	59	Public Industries	ESTI	INPU
Petroleros (SUPE)	27	State Oil Workers	PETR	INPU
Transporte Público: Total	89			
Maritimos	56	Sailors	MARI	TRMX
Aeronauticos	33	Airlines	AERO	TRMX
Transporte Mixto: Total	89			
Construcción	85	Construction Workers	CONS	CONS
Ladrilleros	1	Bricklayers	LADR	CONS
Construcción: Total	86			
Correos y Telecomunicaciones	29	Postal and Telegraph Employees	CORR	COPU
Telefónicos	14	Telephone Workers	TELF	COPU
Telegrafos	5	Telegraph Workers	TELG	COPU
Communic. Públicas: Total	48			

Coding Key 2 Continues on Next Page

Coding Key 2: Sector (continued)

Note: Data pertain only to January 1984-May 1989.

Portuarios	44	Dock Workers	PORT	SEMX
Servicios Mixtos: Total	44			
Mineros	18	Miners	MINE	EXTR
Pescadores	8	Fishing Fleet	PESC	EXTR
Forestales	1	Loggers	FORE	EXTR
Tanino	1	Tannin Distillers	TANI	EXTR
Actividades Extractivas: Total	28			
Radiodifusión	21	Radio Employees	RADI	COMX
Televisión	5	Television Employees	TELV	COMX
Communic. Mixtas: Total	26			
Sub-Total	2,403			
No Identificadas	106	Unidentified		
Total	2,509			

Coding Key 3: Strike Size

Abbr	Scope of Job Action	English Equivalent	Size	Exceptions to Size, Other Notes
NACI	Pais, Nación	Whole Country	BIG	NACI strikes in the radio industry coded SMALL
PROS	Provincias Multiples	Multiple Provinces	BIG	PROS strikes with ≤15,000 particip coded SMALL
PROV	Provincia	Province	SMALL	PROV strikes by sugar & fruit ≥7000 coded BIG
GRAN	Gran Buenos Aires	Greater Buenos Aires	SMALL	GRAN strikes with ≥12,000 strikers coded BIG
MUNI	Municipalidad, Ciudad	Municipality, City	SMALL	MUNI strikes over 50,000 coded BIG
RAMA	Rama	Branch of Econ, Sector	SMALL	RAMA strikes with ≥30,000 strikers coded BIG
DESC	Desconocido	Unknown	SMALL	1 Luz y Fuerza stk w/17000 particip coded BIG
RAMP	Rama en Provincia	Branch within province	SMALL	(Many strikes that should be RAMP still RAMA)
RAMM	Rama en Municipalidad	Branch within a city	SMALL	(Many strikes that should be RAMM still RAMA)
EMPM	Empresas	Multiple Firms	SMALL	None
EMPR	Empresa	Single Firm	SMALL	None
PLAN	Planta, Sitio	Single Plant or Workplace	SMALL	None

Coding Key 4: Strike Scope

Abbr	What it means	Nº	Nº	Nº in both	Nº Offnsv	Nº Dfnsv	% Dfnsv
		Strikes Jan84- Dec92	Strikes Jan84- May89	TE and DIL Jan84- May89	Strikes Jan84- May89	Strikes Jan84- May89	Strikes Jan84- May89
NACI	Whole Country	440	316	278	255	23	8.3
PROS	Multiple Provinces	18	17	15	12	3	20.0
PROV	Province	962	582	256	189	67	26.2
GRAN	Greater Buenos Aires	23	19	17	15	2	11.8
MUNI	City	383	278	133	93	40	30.1
RAMA	Branch of Economic Sector	457	375	261	237	24	9.2
DESC	Unknown	31	22	6	5	1	16.7
RAMP	Branch within a province	15	12	2	2	0	0.0
RAMM	Branch within a city	26	15	9	6	3	33.3
EMPM	Multiple Firms	12	7	6	5	1	16.7
EMPR	Single Firm	367	294	176	109	67	38.1
PLAN	Single Plant or Work Site	667	565	309	78	231	74.8
	Total	3,401	2,502	1,468	1,006	462	31.5

Coding Key 5: Strike Province

Abbreviation	Province
CAPI	Federal Capital
BUEN	Buenos Aires
GRAN	Gran Buenos Aires
CATA	Catamarca
CHAC	Chaco
CHUB	Chubut
CORD	Córdoba
CORR	Corrientes
ENTR	Entre Rios
FORM	Formosa
JUJU	Jujuy
LAPA	La Pampa
LARI	La Rioja
MEND	Mendoza
MISI	Misiones
NACI	Nacional
NEUQ	Neuquén
RION	Rio Negro
SACR	Santa Cruz
SAES	Santiago del Estero
SAFE	Santa Fe
SAJU	San Juan
SALT	Salta
SALU	San Luis
TIER	Tierra del Fuego
TUCU	Tucuman

Coding Key 6: Stated Cause

The Stated Causes of Argentine Strikes, January 1984 to May 1989

Abbr	Cause (in DIL)	English Equivalent
SINF	Sin Información	No information on strike found in DIL, Informes Laborales
DESC	Desconocido	DIL mentions strike but not its causes, or describes causes ambiguously
ATRA	Pago Atrasado	Demand for overdue wages owed by employer
DESP	Despedidos	Layoffs (except PERS), fear of layoffs, failure to issue severance pay
COMP	Cumpliam. Contr.	Demand employer comply w/contract or that prev. cont. be respected
PERS	Persecución	Protest vs. persec. of union, refusal to recog. factory delegates, etc.
SEGU	Segur. del trabajo	Safety
PRIV	Privatización	Protest against government plans/efforts to privatize a state corp.
HORI	Horas Insuficientes	Not enough work
SALA	Salarios	Demand for higher wages
ESCA	Escalafón	Dem. for pay proport. w/other workers, job reclassif., promot. rules
VENT	Ventajas	Fringe benefits (medical insu. etc.) except retirement benefits (JUBI)
POLI	Política	Protest against government laws or policies
PARI	Paritarias	Demand for return to collective bargaining
COND	Condic. de trabajo	Protest vs. poor working cond., poor raw mater., high produc. speeds
JUBI	Jubilación	Retirement benefits
ABAR	Abarc. del contrato	Demand that new categ. of wrkrs (e.g. temps) be covered by contract
REPU	Repud. la gerencia	Repudiation of management
SOLI	Solidaridad	Job action to show support of another group of strikers
DEMA	Demarcación	Demarcation dispute between unions about job categ. each will repre.
PART	Participación	Demand for more participation in running of enterprise
RECO	Reconocimiento	Rcgnit. of union, vs. imposit. of trustees, halt embargo of union funds
TRAS	Traslados	Protest against company decision to move workers or workplace
OBSO	Obra Social	Demand for return of social security funds to union control
HORE	Horas Excesivas	Working day too long

Note: Most strikes which should have been coded "DESC" were coded "SINF" before March 1985

Source: Documentación e Información Laboral, Informes Laborales, Various Issues

* Denominator is total number of total small strikes. ** Denominator is total number of big strikes.

Coding Key 6: Stated Cause, Summary Data

Note: Data pertain only to January 1984-May 1989.

Abbr	Aim	Total	Smll	Big	Total (%)	Small (%)	Big(%)
SINF	Excl.	985	954	31		44.7*	8.4**
DESC	Excl.	50	35	15		1.6*	4.1**
ATRA	DEF	236	224	12	16.1	19.5	3.7
DESP	DEF	158	152	6	10.8	13.3	1.9
COMP	DEF	21	17	4	1.4	1.5	1.2
PERS	DEF	19	19	0	1.3	1.7	0.0
SEGU	DEF	16	13	3	1.1	1.1	0.9
PRIV	DEF	7	5	2	0.5	0.4	0.6
HORI	DEF	5	5	0	0.3	0.4	0.0
Subtotal	Def.	462	435	27	31.5	37.9	8.4
SALA	OFF	735	508	227	50.1	44.3	70.7
ESCA	OFF	140	105	35	9.5	9.2	10.9
VENT	OFF	31	27	4	2.1	2.4	1.2
POLI	OFF	26	21	5	1.8	1.8	1.6
PARI	OFF	12	4	8	0.8	0.3	2.5
COND	OFF	9	8	1	0.6	0.7	0.3
JUBI	OFF	9	2	7	0.6	0.2	2.2
ABAR	OFF	9	9	0	0.6	0.8	0.0
REPU	OFF	8	8	0	0.5	0.7	0.0
SOLI	OFF	8	7	1	0.5	0.6	0.3
DEMA	OFF	6	6	0	0.4	0.5	0.0
PART	OFF	3	1	2	0.2	0.1	0.6
RECO	OFF	3	2	1	0.2	0.2	0.3
TRAS	OFF	3	2	1	0.2	0.2	0.3
OBSO	OFF	2	0	2	0.1	0.0	0.6
HORE	OFF	2	2	0	0.1	0.2	0.0
Subt	Off.	1006	712	294	68.5	62.1	91.6
Subt.	Known	1468	1147	321	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total		2503	2136	367			

Note: Most strikes which should have been coded "DESC" were coded "SINF" before March 1985

Source: Documentación e Información Laboral, Informes Laborales, Various Issues

* Denominator is total number of total small strikes. ** Denominator is total number of big strikes.